

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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HORNE DELIVERS THIRD ANNUAL STATE OF EDUCATION SPEECH
WITH FIVE NEW INITIATIVES FOR ARIZONA'S STUDENTS
*HORNE PROMISES TO REMAIN UNMOVABLE AS THE ROCK OF
GIBRALTAR ON AIMS*

PHOENIX (Tuesday, January 4, 2005) -- Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne tomorrow will deliver his third annual "State of Education" speech at Taylor Junior High School in Mesa. Horne will focus on "Promises Made, Promises Kept" from his first year in office, and continue with his second year of "Better Teachers, Better Schools and Better Curriculum", and announce five new initiatives for his third year in office.

"I am extremely proud of what we at the Department have been able to accomplish the last two years," touted Horne. "We have kept and delivered on our promises, and we have created an environment for the schools as an agency of service. We are better preparing our teachers, and our schools, and we are moving Arizona toward a more content rich curriculum."

Horne added: "I am committed to keeping AIMS as a high school graduation requirement. We will be as unmovable as the Rock of Gibraltar on this issue. We have \$10 million dollars in tutoring funds going to the schools; we have high school sample tests available for students to practice; we have best practices for teaching mathematics around the state; we are getting test results back in a timely fashion; and the test is a closer match to the Arizona standards that are being taught in the classroom. Never again will we graduate a student who cannot read his own diploma."

Horne's five new initiatives: 1) Intervention in failing schools; 2) Increasing adult volunteers in an "Emeritus Program"; 3) Incorporating technology to individualize instruction; 4) A Math initiative; and 5) Expansion of career and technical education programs.

Horne will travel around the state delivering his speech in Mesa, Tucson, Prescott Valley and Flagstaff. The schools are all Title I (high poverty) and are either "Excelling" or "Highly Performing" schools.

For a copy of the full text of Horne's speech, go to www.ade.az.gov and click on "Hot Topics". The speech will be available on Wednesday, January 5, 2005.

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